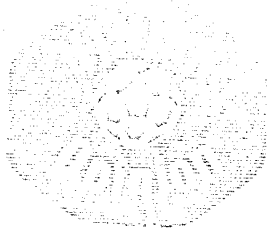


CARDIFF CITY FOOTBALL CLUB LTD.



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

DECEMBER 22, 1975 Bluebirds Journal No. 15

Manager Jimmy Andrews was in no way disappointed that City's high scoring run was halted by non-League Wycombe Wanderers in that gripping F.A. Cup tie. "It was as hard as I had expected — and warned the players — that it would be," he said of the 1-0 victory.

"Remember Wycombe won at Bournemouth in the second round last year, then they came within inches time after time of beating Middlesbrough in the third round before losing the replay almost in the last minute at Ayresome Park. They were a disciplined, composed side who were hard to beat."

But beat them — despite all the scares — City did. Now comes an away tie at Orient and there is calm conviction in the dressing room at Ninian Park that City can make further progress in the F.A. Cup.

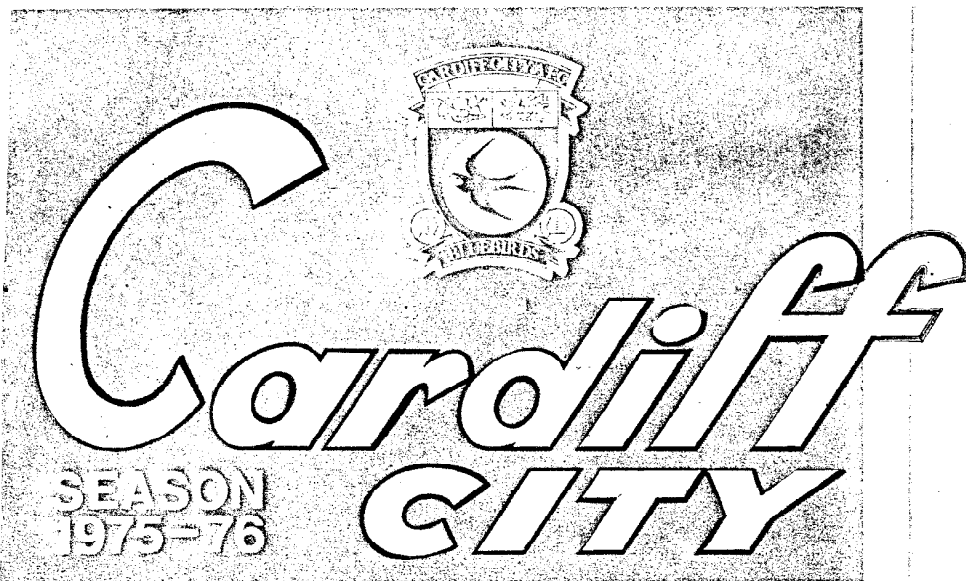
The so-called 'magic' of the Cup often produces higher crowd figures. But the feeling among the directors, manager and players after the Wycombe game was that the biggest Ninian Park crowd of the season, 11,607, was generated by the brilliant football that has been produced in recent weeks . . . and that crop of goals.

Yet, for this week, the thoughts about Cup glory must be put aside. The tough Third Division schedule in the next six days is three games. Every one is now critical, every one heightens the interest and every one can boost City into the promotion bracket.

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS.

Front Page Action

In it goes! Tony Evans cracks in the rebound off Wycombe Wanderers goalkeeper John Maskell during last Saturday's gripping F.A. Cup tie (see his description in Crunch Point!).



PICTURE BY COURTESY OF WESTERN MAIL & SOUTH WALES ECHO

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1975
VERSUS
SOUTHEND UNITED

Division 3 : Kick Off 7.30 p.m.

OFFICIAL

10p

PROGRAMME

CRUNCH POINT!

City's 1-0 victory against Wycombe Wanderers provided the best that the F.A. Cup has to offer. Non-stop attacking football, one brilliantly decisive goal, majestic saves at both ends, fierce competitive spirit and large doses of high individual skill.

For this week's Crunch Point feature, manager Jimmy Andrews picks out two points — the obvious and the not-so-obvious. The match-winning goal by Tony Evans and that courageous save late in the game when Bill Irwin plunged at the feet of Welsh international winger Geoff Anthony as he had the goal at his mercy.

Manager Andrews: "Tony's goal can be described in only one way — an outstanding example of lightning reactions. The speed with which he slammed in the rebound from his header showed the instinctive reflexes of a born goalscorer."

Tony Evans: "It certainly happened very fast. Willie Anderson had switched wings and moved over to the right. He beat a man, took the ball to the line and then lined up his cross.

"The defender watching me 'came off' me a few yards and that gave Willie his chance to find my forehead. His 'chip' was a beautiful one: bang on target. I sensed that the goalkeeper was going one way or the other — but put the ball straight at him.

"As things turned out this was a stroke of luck . . . because he was slightly off balance. He could only pad the ball back with his hands and this time I made sure, hitting it with the outside of my right foot. I agree that it was instinctive on my part because I was inside the six yards box and didn't really have time to think about what to do."

Manager Andrews: "The first thing you can say about Bill's save was 'He's done it again'. So often in recent games, we have enjoyed long spells of domination: then — just once in a while — the opposing team hit back. Each and every time that Bill has been called on in this situation, he has pulled out a tremendous save.

"It is the sign of a good goalkeeper that he can be out of the game for long spells, then suddenly snap into the one moment of action that saves a game. It certainly saved us against Wycombe. But for that dive, we would have faced a replay at Loakes Road where Wycombe have proved so hard to beat."

Bill Irwin: "It's nice to hear Jimmy say that because I didn't think I did all that well! I felt that I had time to pick up the ball before Anthony got there . . . but perhaps this is because I am never completely happy with my game. All the time, I'm seeking to improve it and do better next time.

"The ball was pushed through to him. He came up to it quickly and it was a race between us. I suppose he must have won it because he was in possession when I went down at his feet."

On the point made by manager Andrews that each time he is called on Bill meets the challenge, he says: "It certainly makes a nice change to be a goalkeeper who is not needed almost every minute of a game! But, seriously, it does bring problems.

"I have read about the various ways that goalkeepers have of keeping their concentration. Gordon Banks, for instance, used to pinch himself. My method is to talk to myself right through the game about what is going on in front of me."

After a bleak start to the season with the recuperation spell that followed his operation for a stomach ulcer and then a long wait until Ron Healey was injured, Bill is now "very pleased" with life.

"I hated the first weeks of training with no game on a Saturday; that was a drudge with nothing to look forward to. Then I didn't go much on reserve team football either. Now everything is going right for me and for the team. Certainly my luck has changed for the better."